

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A segmented tire mold having an upper mold half, a lower mold half and radially movable circumferentially spaced sliding segments characterized by:

- a. each of said sliding segments being mounted on said lower mold half for radial movement; and,
- b. a disengagable sliding connection between said upper mold half and each of said sliding segments for moving said segments radially of said mold between an open retracted position and a closed molding position, said disengagable connection comprising a plurality of spaced T-bars mounted on said upper mold half and engagable with a slot in each of said segments.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A segmented tire mold in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by a spring being mounted in said lower mold half and in engagement with each of said sliding segments for holding said segments in said open retracted position.

4. (Currently Amended) A segmented tire mold having an upper mold half, a lower mold half and radially movable circumferentially spaced sliding segments characterized by:

- a. each of said sliding segments being mounted on said lower mold half for radial movement; and,
- b. a disengagable sliding connection between said upper mold half and each of said sliding segments for moving said segments radially of said mold between an open retracted position and a closed molding position, A tire mold in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by said disengagable connection comprising a T-bar mounted on said upper mold half in sliding engagement with a slot in each of said sliding segments.

5. (Original) A segmented tire mold in accordance with claim 4 further characterized by said T-bar having rollers for engagement with surfaces of said slot for reducing the sliding resistance of said second sliding connection.

6. (Original) A segmented tire mold in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by said lower mold half having circumferentially spaced centering pins extending upwardly for register in corresponding spaced-apart holes in said upper mold half.

7. (Original) A tire mold in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by stop members mounted on said lower mold half radially outward of said sliding segments for limiting radial movement upon opening of said mold.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)